

Case Study 4 Benchmark Condition Documentation

Name: Farmer 4

Address

Resource Setting

Rotation

Alternative: Benchmark

Level of Analysis

Action
Kinds, Amount, Type

Effects
Of Alt. on Benchmark

Impacts
Of Effect on Farm

Corn

Plow: 5-18 with 115 hp tractor.
Disk: 13 foot offset with 65 hp tractor.
Plant: 4 row with 65 hp tractor, 75 lbs. N, 125 lbs. P, 170 lbs. K, 25,000 population.
Spray: 20 foot with 65 hp tractor.
Custom operation: Anhydrous. 100 lbs. Nytan.
Chop: 2 row with 115 hp tractor, 65 hp transport.
Custom operation: Combine \$30 per acre plus fuel.
Flail chop where combined: 8 foot with 85 hp tractor.

Hay

Plow: 5-18 with 115 hp tractor.
Disk/roller: 13 foot Pulvimulcher with 85 hp tractor.
Fertilize: Broadcast with 0-40-200, 200 lbs. per acre.
Roll: Pulvimulcher as above.
Drill: 21 hole drill with 40 hp tractor. "Tripper" used as seed.

(Continued on next sheet)

Soil

Ephemeral gullies on all fields. Soil building up at base of field across road from farmstead. Yields declining. Wet fields behind barn. Sediment carrying through barn and barnyard.

Water

Runoff of sediment clogging ditches, muddying streams. Runoff through barnyard carrying animal wastes.

Air

None noted.

Plants

Yields declining, more sensitive to drought or wet.

Animals

Cultural

None noted.

Positive

Known system.
Equipment suited to task.

Negative

Ephemeral gullies increase repair costs.
Wet spots in fields cause ruts, decreased yields, make fields hard to work.
Sediment in barn makes barn maintenance difficult.
Sediment in ditches increases flooding.
Nutrient runoff in violation of DEC guidelines.
Declining yields mean more purchased feed.
Sensitivity to weather extremes increases risk.
Stretched out on time.

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Roll: As above.
Mow: 9 foot with 65 hp tractor
Chop: 6 foot pickup head with 115 hp tractor.
Mow: As above.
Rake: 9 foot side delivery with 65 hp tractor.
Baler/kicker: with 115 hp tractor, 65 hp tractor transports.
Chops first cut, bales second, chops third (if available).

For anhydrous operation, Agway knives in N.
For fertilizing hay, Agway will bring a filled spreader to the farm and the farmer will spread it.

Case Study 4 Alternative Condition Documentation

| Name: Farmer 4 | | Address |
|---|--|---|
| Resource Setting | | Rotation |
| Alternative: Conservation Tillage | | Level of Analysis |
| Action Kinds, Amount, Type | Effects Of Alt. on Benchmark | Impacts Of Effect on Farm |
| <p>Corn</p> <p>Chisel plow: 7 shank with 115 hp tractor. Disk: 13 foot offset with 65 hp tractor. Rest of operations same as benchmark.</p> | Soil | Positive |
| | Ephemeral gullies eliminated. Average soil loss reduced to "T". No sedimentation in ditches or barn. Wet spots eliminated. | Not burying tractor No dead furrow with chiseling Barn maintenance lower. Machinery maintenance lower since no gullies. Spray holds better since not washing out. Streams clear, fewer herd health problems. Vet bills down. Dust reduction. |
| | Water | |
| | No nutrient runoff. Streams clear. No flooding from culverts. | Does not run over rows to chop corn (this refers to the ability to position the tractor in the hay to chop edges of corn instead of losing the last few rows of corn). Sediment layer on corn eliminated, increasing yields. Corn yields less variable. Easier to work fields, since no odd shapes. Time savings. Scouts corn while haying. No need to walk a big field to determine if corn has any problems. Yields are up. Can chop a few strips at a time, instead of having to chop an entire field. |
| | Air | |
| | Dust reduced. | |
| | Plants | |
| | Yields stabilized. Less sensitive to weather extremes. Risk reduced. | |
| | Animals | |
| | Cultural | |